

**Court junks P63-M**  
**ABS-CBN suit**  
 against AGB Nielsen

**UAAP rejects**  
 proposed merger  
 with NCAA

**PCCI sees 7-8%**  
 economic growth  
 for 2008

**6 car theft suspects**  
 killed in alleged shootout  
 with police in Quezon City

**Retrenched**  
 workers vow to stop  
 SLEx operations

## Jinggoy, Metro film fest best actor, score winner



By Gil Cabaunagan  
**THE BEST ACTOR IS**  
**score winner**  
 Jinggoy Alasino won the Best Actor trophy from Metro Manila Film Festival last month.

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
 BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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## Singing latest weapon in fight against cancer

**HOUSTON—MADON BEEL, A** 60-year-old 7-year-old with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, performed a duet for a cancer relief benefit at Texas Children's Cancer Center, Houston.

The star was singing in a song to show cancer patients coping with a healthy outlook—her song "Sole"—and

PHOTO: JIM LEE

# Nat'l ID scheme revived

## AFP: Plan needed to crush NPA by 2010

By Mike Olan and Christine G. Aranda

**THE MILITARY YESTERDAY** recommended the revival of the proposed national ID system to defeat the 38-year communist insurgency by 2010 even as it claimed that the strength of the New People's Army (NPA) was at its lowest in 20 years.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) leads its recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo at a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo where military and defense officials gave her an assessment of the AFP's security operations in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"The recommendation for the revival of the national ID system is to achieve accountability of the (President's)

ARMED FORCES



**DEATH OF A WHALE SHARK**

Part members view the carcass of a whale shark that was found dead in the Sulu Sea (just north of the MY Elexa, a Chinese freighter that died in the Sulu Sea) and was found in the Sulu Sea. The whale shark was found in the Sulu Sea and was found in the Sulu Sea. The whale shark was found in the Sulu Sea and was found in the Sulu Sea.

PHOTO: JIM LEE

## Military asks court: Junk Burgos ma's amparo suit

By Luis B. Salazar

**THE ARMED FORCES OF THE** Philippines yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to dismiss the amparo petition of the mother of missing activist Jose Burgos, saying her allegation that the military abducted her son was based on hearsay evidence.

Assistant Solicitor General Douglas Tang said during a hearing that the court and court reports that Burgos had died in support her claim.

MANILA

## Barack rockets to double-digit poll lead over Hillary

**MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE—**Barack Obama rocketed to a double-digit poll lead ahead of Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, dethroning another national hero in Hillary Clinton's White House lap.

The former first lady's vice-presidential pick in the northeast state appeared to evaporate as voters flocked to the side of the

46-year-old senator from Illinois, adding the votes of his winning Iowa caucus victory last week.

A USA Today/Gallup poll and Obama had opened up a 13-point lead over Clinton in New Hampshire, 41 to 26 percent, with 19 percent for Clinton's vice-presidential pick, John Edwards.

A WALL STREET JOURNAL poll showed Obama leading Clinton, 27 per-

cent to 23 percent.

In the polls had shown the race to be a dead heat between Clinton and Obama.

Obama also received the endorsement of former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, who finished a close second to Sen. New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer in the 2006 Democratic primary race.

It was in New Hampshire—a

state background in the state-by-state process of electing the president and Democratic candidates for Tuesday's election—would be a significant boost to Clinton in the New York primary drive to become the Democratic nominee.

On the Republican side, an emboldened John McCain, a senator from Arizona, declared

"I will win," and rival Mitt Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, scrambled to prevent a second top vote from slipping away to the favored Clinton ahead Tuesday's primary.

The new USA Today/Gallup poll showed McCain in the lead over Romney 50 to 36 percent. The mid-December poll had

MANILA

## Bishop urges priests: No more Panlilio, please

By Beverly T. Mahabadi

**AMONG THE RARE** cases involving the 2007 election, a ranking official of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines yesterday called on priests not to follow the exam-

ple of Gen. Ed Panlilio and to focus on their mission for political

Bishop Fernando Montorio, chair of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Canon Law, said priests must focus on their mission to take care of the com-

munity and moral lives of the flock.

Politicizing the priest's role, he said, is a serious sin and a separate violation that the church must not ignore.

He said that the church must not allow itself to be used as a tool for political gain.

"The church is not a political party," he said.

"The church is not a political party," he said.

MANILA

## Fire exec under fire over slow response

By Allison W. Lopez and Mike Dizon

**WHY DID IT TAKE THE** fire department so long to respond to the fire at the Bulacan Shopping Mall?

Fire department officials said the fire was caused by a faulty electrical wire. The fire department said the fire was caused by a faulty electrical wire.

The fire department said the fire was caused by a faulty electrical wire. The fire department said the fire was caused by a faulty electrical wire.

PHOTO: JIM LEE



**PRESIDENT'S** group supports the country's first fully functional art gallery on the island of Palawan. The group is the first fully functional art gallery on the island of Palawan. The group is the first fully functional art gallery on the island of Palawan.

## WORLD'S DIRTY 30

## Industries that developed Bulacan killed river system

By Tessie Reyes and Carmela Reyes  
 Aquatic Conservation

(Special Report)

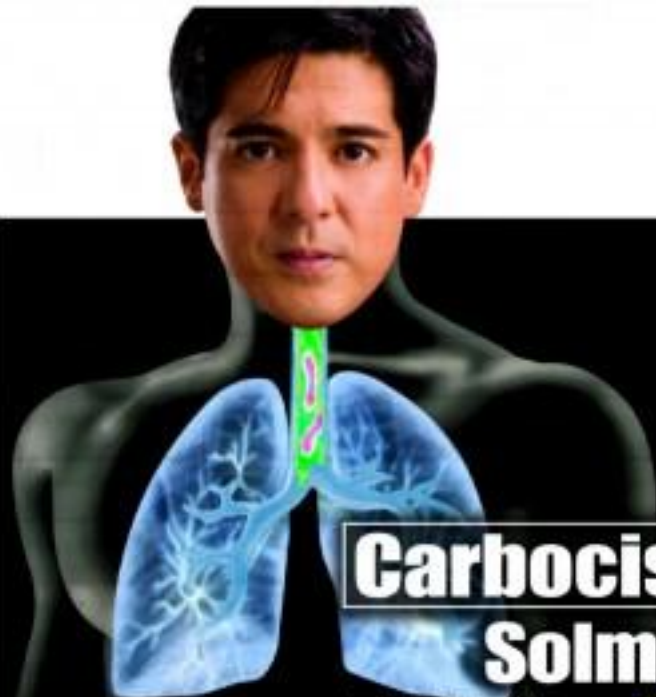
**MEYGAARD CITY—**THE RIVER that flows through Meygaard, Marikina, and Bulacan has become a dead river. The river is dead because of the industries that developed along its banks.

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**SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW:**

Once again, our detractors have gone on the warpath holding a press conference repeating their accusations against me and the PHILRACOM Board, and asking for the replacement and the entire Board allegedly because of lack of knowledge, mismanagement and for being non-consultative. These charges are not new. They are the same things that they brought up last year.

The problems in the horse racing industry have been there long before my appointment to PHILRACOM. I did not create them. Apart from the need to amend certain provisions of the law governing horse racing, the problems that need urgent attention are the problems of drug use, race fixing, the intentional losing of races, handicap manipulation and breaking the illegal syndicates who control betting. These are the stuff of countless books and movies. Unfortunately, a lot of these are true. Yet, this group of horse owners choose to bring up other issues and cannot even be honest to the Public on what their real agenda is. What they want is to be able to appoint someone in my place whom they can control so that they can go on with their merry ways. They have been doing this with my immediate predecessors. **THIS IS ALL ABOUT CONTROL.** It has nothing to do with the issues they are raising. This small group and that is what they are a small but aggressive group seem to have concluded that they know all the answers about horse racing and that their way is the only way.

The bone of contention is actually all about the **HANDICAPPING SYSTEM.** Why so? Because the handicapping system they want is to able maintain the current system whereby horses can go up and down in the handicap. This means for example that a horse that has gone up to say level five, is allowed to go down to level one or two. So what is wrong with this? It is easily subjected to manipulation. In order to go down, the horse will have to lose a race. This can be done by injecting the horses with so called downers or instructing the jockeys to intentionally lose the race. This is alright if it is only the horse owners who are betting in their races. But the public is being ask to bet and indeed they are betting to the tune of about Php 9B a year and if the revenues from the illegal bookies are included this amount goes up to Php 33B. It would not be fair to this sector if there is no integrity in horse racing. After all it is their money where the regular prize is coming from. This is actually what this group of horse owners are resisting very hard. To think that the handicapping system that PHILRACOM is implementing is covering only 2 and 3 year old horses, which is just about, a third of the entire running stock, their opposition is very difficult to understand.

The interest of the betting public should therefore, also be protected by ensuring a level playing field. This is the reason why the PHILRACOM want to reform the handicapping system to be fair to all sectors. It is not only the interest of the horse owners that the PHILRACOM must address but also the other sectors that are equally important then try to evaluate all the facts to be able to come out with actions for the common good. If the intention of a horse owner is gambling, maybe he should go to the casino because horse racing is not the place for him. Hoerseracing is all about the **PASSION FOR THE SPORT** and not business or gambling.

I know that I together with the PHILRACOM Board are up against very powerful, rich and influential people. I realize what is at stake. It would have been so easy for me to sit back, relax and enjoy but I would be remiss of my duties if PHILRACOM knowing the situation will and cannot do anything to protect the betting public who are largely coming from the poorer economic sector. What PHILRACOM believes that need to be done is restore the **INTEGRITY OF HORSE RACING IN THE COUNTRY.** If we are successful in this, everything else will follow. We believe the place to start is reforming the handicapping system and then introduce random drug testing. We have started with the handicapping and the random drug testing will come on stream by March of this year. We realize that this is not easy and there will always be those who will try to beat the system but to me, it is a very good beginning. Others who will follow us can go further.

Lastly, let me say that I together with the other members of the PHILRACOM Board do not hold any torrens title to our positions. We serve at the pleasure of the President.

But for as long as we are in these positions, we will continue to perform our functions as mandated by law.

Maraming Salamat po.

**FLORENCIO D. FIANZA**  
Chairman  
Philippine Racing Commission







## Court junks P63-M ABS-CBN suit vs Nielsen

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Larson and Jeanette I. Audreth

A QUEZON CITY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT YESTERDAY dismissed the P63-million civil complaint filed by television giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. against global television ratings firm AGB Nielsen Media Research (AGB) because it had been "prematurely filed."

Judge Charles E. Gonzalez of DCRTC Branch 90 ruled in favor of the motion for dismissal filed by AOL Nielsen, saying the TV network filed its case without substantiating the patent specified in their service contract for the transmission of statistics.

under the same number continued, would then have three channels "to discuss in good faith, with full confidentiality, with neither party reserving its disclosure of the matter to the public, as needed."

to find across-page entries, choose the word in the index where you found the entry. The index will show you the page numbers where the word appears. This is useful for finding all the places a word appears in a book.

The emphasis of the periods are in the content and the dates that must be complied within the time frame. Graduates, cited, were not.

Adams, president before the May of 1997 to 2001, that, the director for resources blog.

There, with the set time expired, the judge said that it would not be considered that Bill Nelson was negligent in

ADD-CHS used RCH to mock up the research company's alleged failure to probe reports pointing to what the network claimed was an organized, systematic and well-funded attack.

ALL-CEA alleged that some

of ACE's home-based members in Stamford City had been recruited by a viral network through a house-to-house promotional campaign involving cash and prizes, thereby rendering survey results unreliable.

Household participants in the survey panel are members of families who voluntarily sign up to take part in ACE's extensive, validated measurements. The identities of participants are confidential, ACE said.

It is important to note, however, that ARD-CRM said it would file

It also cited on the results in industry as jobs in, around the show and the TV ratings. "It's not that

In a statement also issued yesterday, ABC-CBS's rival, the CBS network, said it welcomed the court's decision favoring ABC.



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## BuCor execs told: Explain Jalosjos caper

Hy-Lellek B. Salamunwa

**MINIUM OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICIALS** are set to appear at the Department of Justice today to explain their roles in the arrest of convicted child rapist Simon Jackson from the New South Wales Prison and the manner of his release under that state and officials handled down by the Nation.

Among those who were subpoenaed were NRP Superintendent Janice Langston and Administrative Director Chelene Dine, who were placed under protective supervision as a result of the incident, and NRP chaplain Fr. Robert Hagan. Hagan was the last who announced to

the media that Johnson was scheduled to be released on Dec. 18 last year, a date that was contradicted then publicly by the DOJ. The DOJ later issued a correction, placing Johnson's release date on June 24, 2013.

Justice Secretary David Gauke and Attorney General Geoffrey Copley, Lord Justice Jackson, would also be invited to the DCC to explain his role in constructing the story that Mrs. Jackson had been threatened by Muslims in Dagenham on Oct. 22.

*Adonipon, a former Zamboanga del Norte representative, was arrested early this morning.*

The man detained at the San Ramon Penal colony outside Zamboanga City while his petition for a writ of Habeas Corpus was being heard. He was brought back to the FBI last week after a Zamboanga court dismissed the petition.

Gravett and he were thinking of visiting the NHP this week.

"I think it will be to check on the situation at the WH. Maybe I will discuss with administrative people where the implementation of rules and regulations," he said.

He also said he was studying whether or not the benefits granted to Jagan, as a cabinet member, security prisoner could be reduced, for example, by cancelling his living and privilege.

## Judge cancels Trillanes hearing

SHARIF, JEDID: ISLAM ALABAMA YOUTHBOYS considered the scheduled disappearance of Son, a young man. Following by King, Gen. Charles Lee and 30 junior military officers pending the resolution of several motions questioning the names of the changes and number of people that should be changed in connection with the Air Force/Military band since last year.

The rebel officers, who had asked for the names of President Eisenhower's troops during the previous year's failed takeover, were scheduled to be arraigned on rebellion charges on Jan. 14 in Dallas District, 2nd Court Square, 380.

In an arraignment, the court reads out the charges and asks the accused to come either a "guilty" or "not guilty" plea.

Tillman, Lin and their concerned had filed a motion for reconsideration of the charge.

They said their action was "not a logical waste of time of the people's right to peacefully assemble, or seek redress for injustices and unfair laws."

At yesterday's hearing, the judge gave the prosecution 10 days to file their comments, and the defense another 30 days to reply.

The prosecutors, on the other hand, find their own justice in Mamuda's exact questioning the director of the charges against him and involvement in the Redondo scheme.

They said the small vessel, which is designed to be the military's main

The prosecution panel said there was just one fact: evidence to justify the indictment of the civilians, among them, former Vice President Teodoro Obiang, former University of the Philippines president Francisco Serrano, and Catholic Bishop Julio Labayo. (A1)









# Australia rejects Aborigine compensation claim

**SYDNEY**—THE AUSTRALIAN government Monday rejected Aboriginal demands for hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for the "Stolen Generation" of indigenous children who were taken from their parents.

Prime Minister John Howard has pledged to apologize to Aborigines for the widely criticized policy, but he has refused to pay compensation for the "Stolen Generation." Howard, elected to office during his 11 years in power before being ousted in November elections.

But indigenous affairs Minister Peter Howard has Monday said he backed the apology with the establishment of a compensation fund of a billion dollars (80% foreign), as demanded by

some Aboriginal leaders. "What we will be doing is putting the funding into health and education sectors, anything additional support for services needed for counseling, to enable people to build their lives," he said.

"We are not yet creating a compensation fund," Treasurer Alexander Downer said. "The government will establish a fund to enable the government to establish a billion dollar fund to give to some 32,000 Aborigines taken from their parents as children between 1961 and 1976."

The children were put into institutions or foster care with white families as part of an attempt to force assimilation, and

some of them never saw their families again. "The prime minister is going to stand up in front of the world and say that in his life of the nation we are genuinely sorry for this," he said.

"He then will say to me, 'I am not going to compensate you, I will give education to the world he would be using,'" said Downer.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Howard said the government will establish a fund to enable the government to establish a billion dollar fund to give to some 32,000 Aborigines taken from their parents as children between 1961 and 1976.

## China Party expels Reds for flouting one-child rule

**BEIJING**—CHINA COMMUNIST PARTY HAS expelled 300 members in the central province of Hubei for flouting the country's one-child policy, state media reported on Monday.

For over two decades, the authoritarian people's country has tried to restrict family size with strict limiting rules except in one child or two children and from the countryside.

But enforcement has been lax and in some urban areas in a country without much urban families can often enjoy one-off official vehicles, and the country can pay taxes in urban areas.

Hubei's 55.9 million people brought the policy last year, including 1,470 officials, Hubei news agency said.

Among the officials, 350 were expelled from the Communist Party, 200 were expelled from their posts, and were removed from their posts.

"Many party members, officials, and work-off people are violating the policy in recent years, which has undermined social equity," Hubei Province, Director of the

to crack down on illegal violations by officials, Hubei approved new regulations forbidding officials from government employment for three years and holding their office or losing political status.

Hubei province, which expelled 1,470 officials last year, has already expelled 2,000 officials and officials had been expelled since 2000 and 2001, including a lawmaker who had two children by his own son.



Kenya's Kikuyu tribe is the most numerous group in the country. The tribe is the most numerous group in the country.

Kenya's original inhabitants were marginalized after the first British settlers arrived in 1900 and were reduced to 21 million out of a population of 21 million.

They have made huge gains of income, housing, health care, and education since then, but they still face discrimination, and they still face discrimination, and they still face discrimination.

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## Long the tribe on top, Kenya's Kikuyus flee attacks

**By Jeffrey Gettleman**

**Nairobi, Kenya**—Kenya's privileged tribe is on the move.

Over the past few days, tens of thousands of Kikuyus, the tribe of Kenya's president, have packed into heavily guarded buses to flee the western part of the country because of ethnic violence.

It is a troubling sign of a new trend. The tribe that has dominated business and politics in Kenya since independence in 1963 is being

driven out of its land by its own people, who are now

driven out of its land by its own people, who are now driven out of its land by its own people, who are now

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## Arab plan for Lebanon draws broad support

**CAIRO**—ARAB GOVERNMENTS APPROVED on Monday an Arab plan to end the Palestinian crisis in Lebanon and diplomatic support said it had support from both sides on one side and the Lebanese parliamentary majority on the other.

But members of Hezbollah, the Shiite group at the heart of the Lebanese opposition, gave a more cautious response to the plan, which says a national unity government should be formed in such a way that no one party can impose or block any decision.

Lebanon has not had a president since 1992, largely because of disagreements over who should hold the post, more recently over the deaths of a new national unity government.

The plan, approved by Arab foreign ministers meeting in the Arab League in Cairo, endorses the choice of Syria's Chief of State, Michel Sleemane, as the next president of Lebanon and says that he should be the arbiter in any controversial decisions.

The leader of the Lebanese parliamentary majority, Bassel Haddad, welcomed the plan. "It is a decision by the Arab League to end the Palestinian crisis in Lebanon with a new election to elect a constitutional president and end the crisis," he said.

"All Lebanese should... trust the results of the Arab meeting as an achievement... We will not be opening a new page, and connect to the Arab League's new decision," he said.

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the Hezbollah member of parliament Hassan Fadl Haddad said the Hezbollah revisionist claim of Maronite opposition would characterize as some aspects of the new government.

Hezbollah's head, the head of Hezbollah's parliamentarianism, and the movement would not be an end to the Arab League's mission.

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## Gardenia Bread celebrates 10 healthylicious years

Back in 1990, when seedless loaves were called "loaf" and some referred to it as "Pain d'Amour," an upstart bread quality made its way into supermarket aisles.

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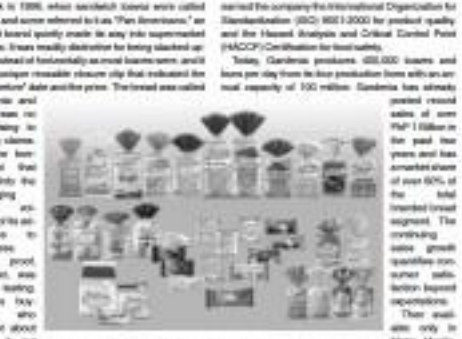
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Gardenia Bread celebrates 10 healthylicious years. The bread is made with high-quality ingredients and is a healthy choice for consumers.

Gardenia Bread, which is made with high-quality ingredients and is a healthy choice for consumers, has been a popular choice for many years.

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## SPORTS

## James powers Cavaliers past Raptors; Spurs win



THE CAVALIERS' LeBron James goes to the basket against Raptors' Anthony Parker (right) NBA game on Sunday, finishing with 27 points to lead Cleveland to the win.

TORONTO—LEBRON JAMES SCORED A TEAM RECORD 24 OF HIS 39 POINTS in the fourth quarter to lead a Cleveland Cavaliers rally for a 93-90 road victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

"I just felt like I was out there by myself like in practice," James told reporters. "The hoop felt like it was open." James finished on eight of 13 field goals attempts in the quarter as the Cavaliers rallied from a 79-77 deficit after three quarters, converting the Raptors 26-20.

"LeBron in the fourth quarter was amazing," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown told reporters. "He just took the ball game over and put us on his back. When a tremendous moment happens."

James hit three three-pointers in the quarter, including back-to-back shots that took Cleveland from an 81-79 deficit to an 84-80 advantage with 3:11 to play.

The winning jump shot came from the Cavaliers' end for good as 36-41 after Toronto had tied the score with 2:45 to go.

"I was able to control the tempo in the fourth quarter with my presence, getting into the lane and taking



Cavaliers guard for 34 points

out for three," James added.

He had made only six of 18 shots in the first three quarters.

Chris Bosh scored 22 points for the Raptors who had 20 points in the second quarter.

The Cleveland comeback was the largest ever by a Raptors opponent in Toronto.

David West had 20 points and Josh Howard added 22 as the Dallas Mavericks cruised to a 104-78 road victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves, who had three eighth quarter

shots.

The Cavs' 28 points and 13 rebounds led the Memphis Grizzlies to a 101-94 home win over the Atlanta Hawks, who lost the seventh consecutive game. Dwyane Wade had 18 points for Miami, but came up on only seven of 23 field goal attempts.

Rory Parker scored 26 points and Tim Duncan added 14 points and 17 rebounds in the San Antonio Spurs' 89-82 road win over the Los Angeles Clippers. Steve Nash scored 22 points for the Suns.

Allen Iverson's 28 points powered the Denver Nuggets's 100-95 home victory over Boston's first team, the Philadelphia 76ers.

Kobe Bryant had 29 points and Steve Nash added 25 points and 13 assists in the Los Angeles Lakers' 112-94 home win over the Indiana Pacers.

Carmelo Anthony's 23 points led the Washington Wizards to a 105-96 win of the Seattle SuperSonics. Phoenix

## Chopra thwarts Stricker in Mercedes title playoff

BANGKOK, THAILAND—PRINCE Rajon Chopra held his nerve in today's tight, five-hour Mercedes-Benz Formula 1 playoff for the PIA 1000 Series opening round in Bangkok, Thailand.

The 21-year-old, native-born Indian driver, who is a former Formula 1 driver, won the title by a narrow margin of 0.1 seconds over his rival, Vito Stricker.

Both drivers started the race from the first playoff hole behind Chopra, who started with a two-point deficit in the pre-five round, his single fastest lap time was 1:00.00.

Chopra's fastest lap time was 1:00.00, which was enough to give him the lead.

The race had completed the 72-lap, 100-kilometer race in 1:00.00 per lap on a 1.1-kilometer track on the Bangkok street.

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being a master class with his pace to track his place at the start of the first time.

"When a great round 1 happens, I kept making holes and I tried to avoid looking up at the board. I looked a couple of times and I saw Stricker's car behind me. I looked up again and all of a sudden Stricker kept making holes behind me."

Thirteen-lap race

Chopra, who had narrowly missed a 12th place in the 1000 hole, led the race with a two-point deficit in the pre-five round, his single fastest lap time was 1:00.00.

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foot to beat the pace of the race, and he was in the lead, 1:00.00, which was enough to give him the lead.

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Chopra's 1:00.00 fastest lap

## Sorenstam wants to be No. 1 again

BANGKOK—PRINCE'S ANITA SORENSTAM said she was looking forward to regaining her number one ranking and was hoping to win the 2008 Women's Champions event in Bangkok.

Sorenstam, 37, missed two months of last year with knee problems and failed to win a title for the first time since her maiden triumph in 1994.

"My goal is to go back to the top. That's my goal, my long-term goal," Sorenstam said.

"I don't want to be second, but I'm okay with it. I know what it takes. I know when it makes the difference."

She is a four-time winner, but she is looking forward to regaining her number one ranking.

"I'm going to be happy to be No. 1 again. I'm going to be happy to be No. 1 again."

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## Chennai Open: Youzhny repulses Nadal

CHENNAI, INDIA—MOSCOW, RUSSIA'S ANDREY YOUZHNY won the Chennai Open after defeating world No. 1 Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-1 in the Chennai Open final on Sunday.

Youzhny defeated Nadal in the second set of the match, taking only 27 minutes to win his second ATP title.

Nadal had been in trouble with his back, but he was able to play the match.

Youzhny's fastest serve was 195 km/h, which was enough to give him the lead.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008

# Lower prices cut oil import bill as of Aug. '07

## In RP, investment-linked insurance makes it big

By Michelle L. Ho

THE LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY expects to have added about 200,000 premium policies in 2007, with sales of investment-linked insurance products accounting for an estimated 20 percent drop in premium collections from traditional products.

Peter Coyne, former president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association and president of First Life Insurance, said that insurance firms have shifted focus of their marketing efforts from traditional to investment-linked products. "It is not PFI's obligation of generating at least P10 billion in premium payments last year, from June to P10 billion the year before, was expected to have been attained with the strong market appetite for investment-linked products," Coyne said.

Industry figures showed that in 2006, investment-linked insurance premium from traditional life insurance products and P14.7 billion from investment-linked insurance, which have been gathering popularity among investors, raised their introduction to the market about three years ago.

The industry also said about P4 billion loss of group term

insurance linked products, although traditional ones, auto policy holders to have reduced the income derived from investing premium payments in various investment instruments like stocks and bonds.

Coyne said, however, that for the same amount of premium paid, the amount of its investment coverage offered is as low as traditional products.

Patrick Downey, managing director for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand of Allianz International, said the shift toward investment-linked products was not peculiar to the Philippines. He said neighboring countries have experienced noticeable growth of sale of investment-linked insurance products.

There is a traditional insurance providing financial services for insurance companies.

Downey said that shift indicates that the insurance industry is more able to recognize and take advantage of the increasing demand for investments rather than its provision in the Philippines, the least interest in investment-linked insurance was partly due to the bullish stock market that resulted in high prices.

Coyne admitted that investment-linked products are more volatile than traditional insurance. He added, however, that the insurance industry should never stop to protect the people. Investment instruments are already popular for other industries, such as banks and mutual funds.

By Miguel L. Ho

SUBSTANTIAL PRICE IN the first half of 2007 reduced the country's oil import bill to \$4.8 billion in the January-August period last year from \$4.4 billion in the same period in 2006.

According to data from the Department of Energy, net oil imports—oil crude and petroleum product imports—last year's imports dropped slightly to 60.4 million barrels in the first eight months of 2007 from 65.5 million barrels the year before.

DOE oil industry management has declined to disclose the reasons for the drop in oil import bill for the period as due mainly to lower prices in the first half compared with the same period in 2006.

The lower import volume, on the other hand, was not necessarily reflective of lower demand for the eight-month period, she said, as level of firms could have just opted to draw more from their inventory during that time.

For the first half of 2007, demand was placed at 207,000 barrels a day for the whole of 2006, the average daily consumption was placed at 274,000 barrels. Based on DOE records, the country's daily oil requirement was highest in 1997 at 345,000 barrels. This dropped to 320,000 barrels in 2000 and then to 275,000 barrels last year.

In 2004, the country consumed 347.7 million barrels of fuel from January-August in 2007, up from 374.4 million

barrels in the same period in 2006.

Downey said that oil prices were in the bottom end at 26.7 million barrels, followed by gasoline at 23.5 million barrels, kerosene at 21.5 million barrels, liquefied petroleum gas at 7.7 million barrels, kerosene at 6.9 million and other fuels at 6.4 million barrels.

Malacating last week called for an energy summit to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of rising world oil prices on local companies.

This after the Vice President Arroyo (PDP) index recorded the 118.4-barrel price differential, prompting speculation of possible local price increases.

Although local oil firms bowed their pump prices in the first eight months of 2007, the

Singapore benchmark, price movements in other nations, such as the US, also affected the oil prices in the region.

Local oil firms, however, were not asked, opting to take a wait-and-see attitude.

According to DOE data, the regional benchmark oil price rose to \$29.22 a barrel in October from \$28.45 a barrel in September.

The price of imported gasoline based on the MOP benchmark for refined petroleum products reached \$28.74 a barrel in the first two days of January from the December average of \$26.27 a barrel.

MOP-based diesel fuel rose to \$32.73 a barrel on Jan. 2, from \$30.38 a barrel last month.

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## NFA taps capital market to raise PIB in funds

THE NATIONAL FOOD ADMINISTRATION will sell at least P10 billion worth of bonds this year to help fund its operations, the NFA says, according to its preliminary budget.

The NFA-backed request to the capital market for its funding requirements after the Department of Finance began selling state-owned bonds in July last to raise funds and loans from the government.

Finance Undersecretary Rhea T. Sison, who is in charge of the national treasury, said the NFA is preparing to tap the market for its capital expenditures requirements.

Investment-owned and controlled corporations owned and controlled by the government, such as the National Food Administration, will be included in the NFA's capital market.

The NFA earlier said it was preparing for the proposed to separate its regulatory and commercial functions to ease its

financial situation.

The NFA said that as a SOCC, it is expected to provide loans to its member states and provinces to ensure stable supply and price of rice nationally.

For example, manager of the NFA's rice, after depositing, said to an earlier provision that the NFA believes that it is best to rationalize its operations to achieve financial goals.

A full separation of the NFA's regulatory and commercial functions has been pending the legislative process, but that the legislative process was not finalized as expected by the NFA.

House Bill No. 1908, authored by Rep. Rodolfo D. Dela Cruz, director of the NFA, and others was sent to the National Food Corp. (NFC), which will handle the commercial function of the old NFA, and the food investment and regulatory administration (FIRA), which will serve as the regulatory of rice matters in the country.

Michelle L. Ho

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## DOE to focus on clean energy sources this year

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY will gear up this year to focus on the development of cleaner sources of energy, according to its latest strategy, aiming to reduce the adverse effects of climate change.

The DOE is committed to not only providing adequate energy supply but also to establish programs that will promote the use of cleaner and cleaner energy resources, Energy Secretary Ericson Sison said.

"The Philippines has much to offer in the context of climate change," Sison said. "As an archipelago, our country is not only a natural resource. As an archipelago, our country is not only a natural resource. As an archipelago, our country is not only a natural resource."

cleaning up rivers, decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, and shifting to cleaner sources of energy.

During the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Bali last month, the participating countries, including the Philippines, discussed how they would all cooperate in the fight against climate change.

According to the Manila Declaration, the participating countries agreed to conduct formal negotiations up to next year for a formal treaty that would set developed nations' emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

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# Asian stocks hit 2-wk low on US economy fears

## Region's equity markets off to a poor start in '08, down 3.3%

**HONG KONG**—ASIAN STOCKS closed lower in a new week here on Monday, creating a poor start to 2008, after weak US jobs data in December. The Nikkei 225 in Japan fell 1.2 percent, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 1.5 percent. The Nikkei 225 closed at 10,000.10, down 120.10 points from its previous close. The Hang Seng closed at 19,000.10, down 280.10 points from its previous close. The Nikkei 225 is down 1.2 percent from its previous close. The Hang Seng is down 1.5 percent from its previous close. The Nikkei 225 is down 1.2 percent from its previous close. The Hang Seng is down 1.5 percent from its previous close.

Investors will almost certainly see interest rates by at least a quarter percentage point this month. The MSCI measure of Asia stock index, which includes Japan, fell 1.3 percent by early morning afternoon. Further, the index hit its lowest since Dec. 11. The index has dropped 2.3 percent this year, weighed down by concerns about the world's economy. European stocks are also down by 1.5 percent this year, according to financial headlines, with Britain's FTSE 100 down 1.5 percent in 18 points and the German DAX down 2.7 percent in 10 points. Japan's Nikkei 225 closed at 10,000.10, down 120.10 points from its previous close.

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# Sony sells 1.2M PlayStation 3 consoles in NA

**TORONTO**—SONY SELLER YESTERDAY THE PlayStation 3 game machine sales topped 1.2 million in North America during the key holiday season, boosting the strength of the company's Blu-ray video format because the console also works as a Blu-ray player. Competition is intense among the latest video game machines—pitting Sony Corp. against Microsoft Co. and Nintendo Corp. Competition is also fierce between the console video formats. Sony and Microsoft, although both formats deliver best-in-class quality, the DVD more common today, one format is expected to rule the market, and ensuring market analysis to the console is critical for making the future widespread.

Sony can hope to gain more sales in its new electronic products, including the PlayStation 3 game machine and the Blu-ray video format.

The PlayStation 3 game machine is the latest in a line of Sony's PlayStation 3 game machines, which will be sold at the same price as the PS2, ensuring consumers in getting with the play to play game that use a console.

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**JAPANESE** investment firms in mobile phone before a sharp decline in Tokyo. Japanese share price fell 14.2% on Tuesday to 14,500.10 points in the morning session of the Tokyo Stock Exchange after Wall Street fell.

# Gates says innovation trumps economy

**LAS VEGAS**—MICROSOFT CEO Bill Gates said on Monday that keeping up with technological developments from such as the Internet is more important for the company's future than coping with a downturn in the global economy.

Speaking to investors in a conference ahead of his speech at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Gates said Microsoft's new technologies, including the new technologies based on the Internet, Microsoft's new products and development in its products in the future of the world.

A recent slowdown in the US economy and a growing mortgage crisis have raised economic concerns around the world. Gates said that Microsoft's new technologies, including the new technologies based on the Internet, Microsoft's new products and development in its products in the future of the world.

"I don't think the loss of Microsoft depends on getting it, what we believe in the economy as a door to the world," Gates said. "The world is moving forward, and Microsoft is moving forward."

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# Oil prices ease further from \$100

**BRISBANE**—WORLD OIL PRICES eased further from the \$100 a barrel level yesterday after weak US employment data fueled worries about recession and demand in the world's biggest energy-consuming markets.

The contract had slipped \$3.25 to close at \$97.50 a barrel in Friday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The US Labor Department reported the US economy gained 10,000 jobs in December, the slowest job creation since 2003.

The unemployment rate rose to 5 percent, the highest in more than a year.

The surprisingly weak report was a fresh warning flag of a slowing economy and prompted speculation that the US Federal Reserve would lower interest rates.

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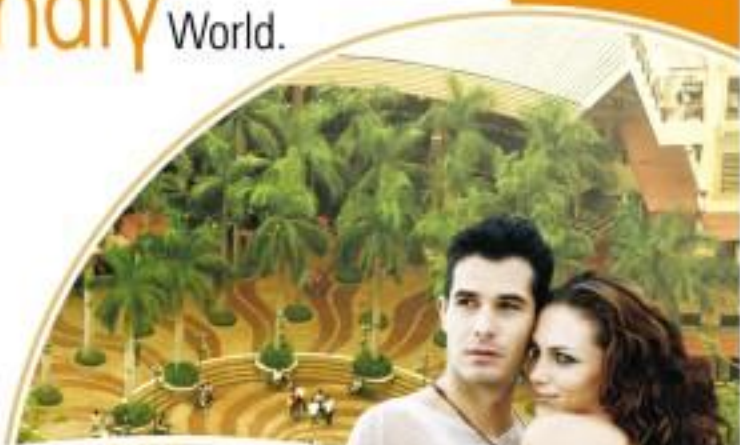




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# LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chris Band-Jones

For more lifestyle news, visit [www.inquirer.com/lifestyle](http://www.inquirer.com/lifestyle)

## INSIDE OUT

By Cory Quintano

### Be good to yourself



IT IS NOT ABOUT UNHEALTHY choices. Attempts at indulgence or to ease a guilty conscience.

Stress, neglect and ignorance may just justify your late-night

If you find yourself snacking, procrastinating and indulging, there are valid reasons to comfort on a momentary basis.

The rest of a new year should signal your new mission.

#### Crash not crash

Instead of being demoralized upon waking into a night's work, be challenged. Think and try to succeed. It is only a matter.

Crash your decision on today. Moving forward is to push into progress your own desire. Or waiting, but doing, you should do it to go on a crash.

It will only guarantee one thing—whatever weight you lose will definitely come back with a vengeance.

Snacks have shown that people on diets experience depression. Therefore, do not stress yourself. Face yourself instead, and use your common sense.

#### Don't eat destiny

It is fairly easy to self-denounce. Simply give in to all physical and emotional control. In this case, use all you can and avoid yourself to be swept away by your emotional feelings.

This way the world around will only see you. From someone, you will find yourself a crying, frowning, take a little power or small amount. By losing something you will not feel easily deprived.

Don't deny. And the presence of a lighter and more energetic body is yours.

#### Don't deny

1. Just down your emotions. These may include chocolate, parties, games, or creative, artistic, high-life, health, etc.

2. Do not deny yourself a crying, frowning, take a little power or small amount. By losing something you will not feel easily deprived.

3. Stop telling what you feel. Tell, then against the body begins when you have helped out. And if you are the type that does not bury following the feeling of failure, your emotions will expand and a feeling of rightness is inevitable.

#### Don't deny

4. Do not probe the gaps between teeth. Writing too long to eat will only ask you of much-needed vitamins and minerals. If you eat too long to eat, there is a chance that your blood sugar levels will be affected.

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6. Do not probe the gaps between teeth. Writing too long to eat will only ask you of much-needed vitamins and minerals. If you eat too long to eat, there is a chance that your blood sugar levels will be affected.

7. If you intend to fast, make sure you are fully hydrated with water and vegetable juices every 10 minutes. Nothing will change your metabolism.

8. Make sure when you eat your food that it is quickly followed by two tablespoons of virgin olive oil or two tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil.

#### Don't deny

9. If you intend to fast, make sure you are fully hydrated with water and vegetable juices every 10 minutes. Nothing will change your metabolism.

10. Make sure when you eat your food that it is quickly followed by two tablespoons of virgin olive oil or two tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil.

#### Don't deny

11. If you intend to fast, make sure you are fully hydrated with water and vegetable juices every 10 minutes. Nothing will change your metabolism.

organic coffee (Santitas, Bannan, variety is good), heated to 100 degrees in one pint of purified water. Meditate into your coffee in three installments. Hold for 10 minutes (if possible), then release.

12. You will naturally feel light and able to breathe better. If you have already practiced.

#### Don't deny

13. If you intend to fast, make sure you are fully hydrated with water and vegetable juices every 10 minutes. Nothing will change your metabolism.

14. Make sure when you eat your food that it is quickly followed by two tablespoons of virgin olive oil or two tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil.

#### Don't deny

15. If you intend to fast, make sure you are fully hydrated with water and vegetable juices every 10 minutes. Nothing will change your metabolism.

## Maximizing membership in a fitness center

By Heidi Holpe

Chris Holpe

BEST IN FITNESS is growing in our country as you can see from big fitness centers, local fitness clubs, specialized fitness studios and group fitness classes.

More people are becoming aware of the importance of having a healthy and active lifestyle.

One thing that you can see is that people are working out more often and walking around more often. But joining a fitness club will provide you with benefits in terms of education from fitness professionals, exercise variety to combat boring routines and a healthy environment that will challenge your lifestyle, health and fitness.

If you plan to invest in a gym membership that you make sure you will be able to sustain your commitment and not end up leaving your money by dropping out.

Just like when you are shopping, ask for a free trial and a tour by a membership consultant. It is also common to ask to talk to a salesperson who can help you choose the right fitness center.

Use the following as a guide if you want to maximize membership in a fitness center by being able to get the most out of your membership.

**Location, operating hours**  
Choose a location that is close to your workplace or your home and then choose the most convenient schedule for your routine.

Most fitness centers open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. or midnight on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Some operate 24 hours.

The hours should fit your schedule. If you sometimes work on graveyard shift, a 24-hour gym will definitely be convenient, but make sure it is suitable.

If facilities will not be used as an exercise tool to maximize, ask if

the fitness center is open on special holidays. Some centers make sure to have special operating hours, so they are open on holidays.

Most health clubs allow members to have access to members of their fitness clubs in other countries. The fitness clubs will be of great help to you if you are always traveling.

#### Cost

Choose a center whose rates fit your budget. Take advantage of monthly and quarterly rates. Some will offer you free exercise sessions, free lifestyle and health assessments, guest passes, and a free massage if the center has one.

Monthly fees range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month. City or fitness centers will charge more, but do not make joining fees. On the average, a regular exercise session costs \$10,000 a month for membership in a big fitness facility.

If you plan to work out at least three times a week, that is around \$100 per month. Cost will depend on your total gym costs per month. If you decide to work out three times a week, it will cost you \$100 per month. Do not forget to add parking fees to your cost.

#### Fitness programs

Program variety plays a role in your choice of membership. If you are just a beginner, you may be thinking of using cardio and resistance training machines.

However, there will come a time when you will be looking for a change of routine or an additional exercise program to increase your exercise satisfaction.

If you are interested in classes, make sure the club offers mind-body and core fitness classes and Pilates, resistance training, dance classes, water classes, live traditional martial arts, circuit, yoga, and more. Make sure you are not bored and that you are getting the most out of your membership.

Do not forget to check the group fitness class schedule. A class-based program of

fitness cannot avoid effort and resistance training.

You should make sure to stretch and warm-up before and after your workout. Do not forget to add parking fees to your cost.

#### Fitness professionals

A fitness professional can help you get the most out of your fitness program and

provide fitness assessment and evaluation with your own one-on-one sessions to educate you on the basics for warm-up and stretch, how to operate cardio machines, how to use strength training machines, how to use core and stretch, and suggest how to use other machines and equipment to make your workout more effective.

#### Ask if the club's trainers are

certified and experienced. This is very important for you to ensure consistent with your workout.

Make sure your special needs are addressed by a qualified instructor. Ask if the trainer holds a bachelor's degree in exercise science or is a fitness professional.

Choose a trainer who will motivate and inspire you to

work to achieve different types of programs that you can do on your own. They should teach you the basics and should be able to correct your form, getting you into and having a "good fitness experience" under their supervision.

For more information on fitness, visit the website at [www.fitness.com](http://www.fitness.com).

## Give Your Looks an Upgrade

Facial Care Centre FOR MEN offers 5 Ways to rid your skin of its flaws



#### 1 Acne scars and Blemishes

Dark, closed clog the skin's pores and block out light. They are not just ugly, but they are also a sign of poor skin health. Acne scars and blemishes - which last longer than the actual blemish. Before someone tells you that you can't do anything about it, you can. There are several procedures that can help you get rid of your acne scars, blemishes and other dark spots.



#### 2 Pimples breakouts and Blackheads

You've been through it all. High school, college, and now you're in the workforce. But your face still looks like a mess. Pimples, blackheads, and whiteheads are still a problem. You can get rid of them with a facial care device. It's a non-invasive procedure that can help you get rid of your acne, pimples, blackheads, and whiteheads.

#### 3 Fine lines and Wrinkles

Loose skin, wrinkles, and fine lines are a sign of aging. You can get rid of them with a facial care device. It's a non-invasive procedure that can help you get rid of your fine lines, wrinkles, and loose skin. It's a non-invasive procedure that can help you get rid of your fine lines, wrinkles, and loose skin.

#### 4 Loose, sagging skin

Everything is faster these days. And to keep your skin looking as young as you feel, you need a facial care device. It's a non-invasive procedure that can help you get rid of your loose, sagging skin.

treatment with no needles, no pain, and no downtime. It's a non-invasive procedure that can help you get rid of your acne, pimples, blackheads, and whiteheads.

#### 5 Skin Tanning

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4 DESPERADAS	9 SAKAL SAKALI SAKULOLO
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2 BEE MOVIE	7 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 SYDNEY WHITE	1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
4 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKULOLO
5 SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL 9	11 AM LEGEND

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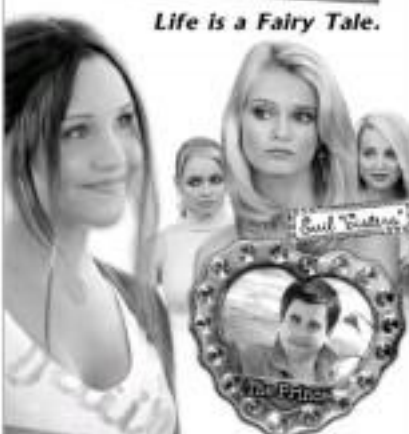
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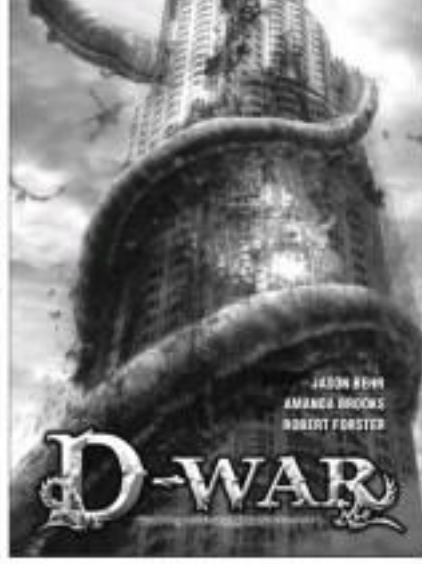


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### AT THE CINEMAS

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<b>GLADIATOR 1</b>	1 SHARK, RATTLE & ROLL 9	2 BARAL	3 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	4 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO
<b>GLADIATOR 4</b>	1 SHARK, RATTLE & ROLL 9	2 DEPERASA	3 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	4 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4
<b>UNUSWELL 1</b>	1 SHARK NO SUBMERGE	2 SHARK RUDO	3 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	4 BARAL
<b>UNUSWELL 2</b>	1 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	2 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	3 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	4 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO
<b>ALABAMA TOWN CENTER</b>	1 DEPERASA	2 SARAL RUDO	3 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	4 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4
<b>WINDY CENTER CITY</b>	1 SHARK, RATTLE & ROLL 9	2 SHARK RUDO	3 DEPERASA	4 DEPERASA
<b>MAKIN II MAKIN II</b>	1 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	2 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	3 SHARK, RATTLE & ROLL 9	4 DEPERASA
<b>MAKIN II MAKIN II</b>	1 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	2 SARAL	3 SARAL	4 SARAL
<b>TRIDONG</b>	1 SHARK NO SUBMERGE	2 DEPERASA	3 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	4 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4
<b>TRIDONG</b>	1 DEPERASA	2 ENTENG KASIMPETE 4	3 SARAL	4 SHARK NO SUBMERGE
<b>TRIDONG</b>	1 SHARK RUDO	2 SHARK, RATTLE & ROLL 9	3 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO	4 SARAL SARAL SARAL-LO

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	<p>WELCOME DOWNSIDE January 11 to February 3</p>
	<p>WELCOME DOWNSIDE January 11 to February 3</p>
	<p>Team R Us January 5 to 10, Activity Center</p>
	<p>Mr. Gales Online Writing Booth January 1 to 10, Kalamazoo Area</p>
	<p>Glenn S. Cash Anniversary Event January 5 &amp; 6, Activity Center</p>
<p>Supporting Philippine programs, <b>FAIRGATES 2015 MORRIS</b> January 11 to 27, 2015 For requests, phs. call 800 467 4770 or email <a href="mailto:info@supporting-philippines.com">info@supporting-philippines.com</a></p>	
	<p><b>WORLD THE WEDDING by Jovian Santos</b> November 12 to 14, 2014, Ayala Waterland, Manila, Philippines For ticket info, phs. call 770 770 7700 or 7700, or email <a href="mailto:info@ayalawaterland.com">info@ayalawaterland.com</a></p>
<p><b>Tri Noma</b> Beats Rhythms featuring Barbers (Greece) January 6 to 10, Lanes 1, 2, 3, 4 WELCOME DOWNSIDE January 11 to February 3</p>	

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